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ASHBURTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 1955.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 1955.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area of District (in acres).....6,781
Population - Mid 1955.....2,730
Population - 1954 Census.....2,710
Number of Inhabited Houses.....1,059
Rateable value on 1st April 1955.....£15,971
Product of Penny Rate (as at 1st April 1955).....£ 61

MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH

In the statistics which follow it will be noted that the Birth and Death rates are calculated as 'Crude' and 'Corrected'.

The 'Crude' rate represents the actual figures obtained by arithmetical proportion.

The 'Corrected' or 'Standardised' rate takes into account the difference in the distribution of the various age groups and the proportion of the sexes in Ashburton as compared with the rest of the country and gives a truer comparison between the state of affairs in this Urban District and that in the larger units.

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	14	19	33
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	14	20	34
	—	—	—

Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population -	12.45
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	13.57
Crude Live Birth rate for the Administrative County of Devon	12.58
Corrected Live Birth rate for the Administrative County of Devon	14.34
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	15. 0
<u>Still Births</u>	Nil.

The birth rate in Ashburton has fallen by 15% this year compared with 1954, and reflects the trend throughout Devon.

DEATHS

During the year, the average age at death from all causes was found to be 65.8 years. The average age of all male deaths was 61.9 and for female deaths 69.7 years.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	20	23	43
Crude death rate per 1000 population.....			15.75
Corrected death rate per 1000 population.....			12.28
Crude death rate for the Administrative County of Devon			14.58
Corrected death rate for the Administrative County of Devon.....			10.79
Death Rate per 1000 total population England and Wales.....			11. 7

Infant Mortality

Death of Infants under One year of Age.....	2
Infant Mortality rate per 1000 related to live birth	.58.82
Infant Mortality rate for the Administrative County of Devon.....	24. 1

The apparently high Infant Mortality rate is due solely to the small numbers with which we deal in Ashburton, when an increase of one infant death to a total of 2, doubles the rate.

Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths occurred during the past year.
A total of 5 cases occurred in the Administrative County of Devon.

AGE AT DEATH.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Infants under 4 weeks	1	1
1 -	0	0
5 -	1	0
15 -	1	0
25 -	2	1
45 -	3	3
65 -	4	7
75 and over	8	11
	—	—
	20	23

Total:- 43

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
All causes	20	23
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0
Malignant Neoplasm of lung and bronchus	2	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	0	5
Diabetes	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	1
Coronary disease, angina	2	1
Hypertension with heart disease	0	1
Other heart disease	3	2
Other circulatory disease	3	3
Pneumonia	0	1
Influenza	0	1
Bronchitis	2	0
Nephritis	0	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1
All other accidents	1	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	20	23
	—	—



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INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles	157
Poliomyelitis	4
Tuberculosis	2
Paratyphoid fever	1

Measles

This was an epidemic year for measles, as in Devon as a whole. Practically all cases occurred in the last 4 months of the year.

Poliomyelitis

The four cases of acute poliomyelitis in a small community caused concern, especially as one case was fatal. No connection was demonstrated in these cases, and as these were the first cases in Ashburton since 1950, they must be regarded as an unfortunate turn of fate, and hope that the proposed poliomyelitis vaccination of children next year will cut cases to a minimum.

Paratyphoid fever

The one case was contracted in an area outside Ashburton.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

R. BELLAMY.

Medical Officer of Health.

